

SOTHIZINE #9

november

2006

Idle sunder # Aether II

The music begins, I wake up, my systems slowly restart, recalibrate, reconfigure. My eyes open up on a panorama of machines. Electronic systems and machineries cracking and glitching in a feeble artificial glow. The place seems deserted, no one else around. Are these sounds coming from outside or inside me, there's nothing to help me distinguish what is real from what is not. Everything is abstract, everything is an illusion. I am outside the shell now, I see a landscape, the view is grandiose, it's dark and lifeless but its sight fills me with hopes. Soon I will cross these lands to walk on the earth which lays beyond the black blizzards. A bewitching soundtrack.

Netlabel # Entity.be/entity/
Artist # Entity.be/idlesunder/

Ahasverus # The destiny of Fabian Kazmierski

Ahasverus in The destiny of Fabian Kazmierski performs classical dark ambient in the sens that it's similar to classical music, played using strings only in such a way to bring out some ominousness. The wind comes occasionnally, merging into the music to give a more natural, soundscape-like feel. The small amount of darkness that the music carries is frequently set aside for the benefit of a more melancholic tone. The artist kept his release into its most simple form in a minimalistic approach with a reduced number of sounds. This method may seem limited but this proves the opposite in a beautiful way.

Netlabel # Protoplazma.com
Artist # Ahasverus.se

24hourflu # 24hourflu

24hourflu is an experimental rock band from the US, in this self titled release their sound varies greatly from the noise rock/post-rock of Hole receiver which resembles somehow to a lighter version of Sunn O))), to cleaner tones like in Reaper which is post-rock in its purest form. Some of the tracks feature a distorted, anti aesthetic "singing" that merges remarkably into the noisiest parts but becomes a nuisance at some places (quite rarely though). As said before, calm and less calmer passages are alternated during the whole album keeping things in motion and captivating. A good surprise.

Label # Sona-records.com
Artist # 24hourflu.us

Feu follet # Toi et le son

Toi et le son is a two 18 minutes tracks ep of gentle dark ambient. The music materializes in the shape of a relaxing warm wind, a stream that takes off and glides over the island illustrated in the artwork. The piece of earth looks like a vessel emerging from the sea, one that could possibly continue its ascension towards the sky. The way the soundscapes are made, their simplicity, creates and reinforce the atmosphere of mystery associated to the cover. The second track continues the same way with less slick sounds and more relief. A devouring calmness.

Label # Einzeleinheit.com
Artist # Aalfang.de/feufollet

Abstract avenue & Plusminus # Luminogramm

Luminogramm is a split cd, raveling the tracks from the two participating bands in a twist of downtempo/jazz steadiness and idm-like craze. This release is interesting in the way that it uses different approaches to the music throughout the album while keeping it easy and agreeable. Both of the band didn't hesitate in including less mainstream sonorities along with ones that would seem completely detached from the context. Luminogramm is rich and varied and beautiful. The mp3s are available for free at the netlabel's site and if you want to show some support you can buy higher quality mp3s.

Netlabel # Legoego.de

Syphilis sauna # There inside

Induced by the name of the band, my interpretation of the sounds went towards sickness. The tracks seem to paint, each, a digital canvas of a different ache or disease that appear inside the human body like nausea, headaches and else. This impression lasted until the fourth track which quits dark ambient/illbient to a different approach with its glitchy idm rhythms. The following tracks plounge into a cyberpunk atmosphere and slowly turn back to the dark ambient form. There inside (inquiry) features a beautiful piano piece with noise notches above. This marks beginning of a second part, Imagery rehearsal, fast paced and hectic, contrasts drastically with the rest. Nice noise.

Netlabel # Reautomation.com/dsound.html

Heathcliff & Catherine # Regina della notte

Heathcliff & Catherine is a new band from Italia, they signal their existence to the world with this single and by the way make us salivate on their forthcoming album unfortunately to be released only in late 2007. The cd contains three versions of the song Regina della notte respectively darkwave, dark electro and a mix those two in an instrumental form. The first two songs are based on a male/female duo Italian singing, very beautiful. They've done a good job and it seems good things are on their way. However it's a deception they released only a single, a little ep would have done a lot more better. A band to keep an eye on.

Artist # Heathcliffandcatherine.com

Re: dux tion # Self/sub:vrns

After the self-released Three lilies, Self/sub:vrns, second release of Re: dux tion, is out on Australian Smell the stench recordings. 6 tracks on 30 minutes of dark ambient. The soundscapes are well crafted and very rich, they start quite bleak at the beginning then turn towards lighter moods around the half of the third track, Death imitates art. Fluid the following track gets immediately into what is the essence of this music, darkness. Almost all tracks report the same emotion in different subtle shades and angles. The thing remains always abstract and difficult to stick an image to thus making your mind seeking for explanations. A pleasant release.

Artist # Soundclick.com/reduxtion

Zena soundscape project # Zena soudscape project

Zena soundscape project is an italian duo that formed in late 2005 and now present their first demo. It's brief, 18 minutes, 4 tracks, but effective. The band plays ambient music and makes it alive as it's not built on any kind of monotonous, repeating pattern. It's dynamic and relaxing, gliding soundscapes back up the various percussions to achive this equilibrium. The duo claims a wide range of influences, from goa/psytrance to ambient, passing by space rock and industrial and the mix is apparent and finely tuned . They announce an active future full of collaborations and live acts. I'll be watching for their next release.

Artist # Freewebs.com/zenasoundscape/index.htm

Dan Warburton # A walk through M

In A walk through M, over the 12 minutes that it spans, Dan Warburton doesn't propose a piece of music but instead tells us a story through the use of successive sounds. The different samples evoke different images and its up to you to stick them together and create an intelligible story. Each time you listen to the track you imagine other things that actually develop what you saw the first time or take you to another path of imagination. Things you will imagine will probably depend on your personality and mood, on my side I imagined quite bleak things.

Netlabel # Con-v.org

Swamps up nostrils/Guignol dangereux # Shitbreather

Shitbreather is a split cd with a 30 minutes contribution from each artist. The release starts with Swamps up nostrils music which delivers a nearly chaotic rhythmic noise over the 5 tracks ponctuated here and there by small ambient clearings. The fifth track is a lot more calmer and features mainly a conversation between two men over background noise hallucinations at least at the beginning. Later the music turns into some kind of experimental drum'n'bass. The sixth track, the one by Guignol dangereux, consists of a continuous industrial techno pattern serving as a ground to the accompanying noise blasts. A danceable set at high volume for those who would like to. I like it a lot especially Swamps up nostrils music.

Label # Krakilsk.org

Anemone # The rural sequence

The rural sequence seems like coming from another dimension, it sounds vintage and avantgarde at the same time. Mulptiple music genres are mixed together to give that unique feel, downtempo, acid jazz, various electronic stuff and other indescribable things are all there. The downtempo rhythm is relatively unchanging over the 55 minutes of the album and the contrast between tracks is rather created using changes in the feel and nature of the sound. However it stays homogenous from the beginning til the end. Quality work I have to say, people who like happy music will be delighted.

Artist # Anemonemusic.com

V/A # Backward beats

Phubriq releases a small 4 tracks electronica/trip-hop compilation, it's released in the form of a digital double vinyl ep. It features Bodyvehicule, Yan ots, Project mirror and Protector hood, I personally never heard of any of these acts but they sound real good. As a whole it runs over a little 17 minutes, 4 minutes per track but every bit of time on it is invaded with quality sound. Bodyvehicule opens the ball with Sorrows of Xtal heart in electro trip-hop mode, Yan ots spreads on a similar mood but with jazzy tunes, end of disk a. Disk b starts with Project mirror, always jazzy, on a smoother rhythm, Protector hood slows things a bit more then stops it. Pleasant and inspiring pieces.

Netlabel # Phubriq.net

V/A # Lasts dots of a certain sound

16 tracks of soft glitch music spanning more than 1 hour, almost loungy. Despite being based on glitch elements the tendency here is towards ambient pieces. Certain artists use these base components more lightly and/or sparingly than others, giving a broad range of sonorities while staying in an identical mood. The different contributions are homogenous as no specific track stands out from the others, making them seem almost like a casual album released by one single artist. The music is well constructed and showcases the capabilities of the participating artists that, I'm sure, will soon mark there names and the netscene and maybe beyond.

Netlabel # Electrosound.ru

Info

*Sothzine is a monthly underground music webzine and PDF mag.
<http://sothzine.atspace.com/>*

Submissions

*To submit your music for review send a mail to
sothzine@yahoo.com with a link to your music.
Or send your CDs to the following address:*

*Sothzine
Yassine Maaroufi
S 23 O 2 appt 1
Hay Riad Rabat
Morocco*

#

Sothzine is edited and published by Yassine Maaroufi

SOTHZINE #9